THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Policy measures already exist for promoting and strengthening Small, Tiny and Village Enterprises, which were announced by the Government on 6th August 1991. However, Government continues to lay emphasis on meeting the concerns of small & tiny enterprises.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Sick SSIs of Gujarat

884. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether many of the Small Scale Industries Units in Gujarat are closing down or becoming sick day by day;

(b) if so, the number of such SSIs during the last three years;

(c) what action Government propose to take to prevent such closure or sickness of SSIs in Gujarat; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the banks are denying working capital requirements of such SSIs which cause closure or sickness of SSIs in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) No, Sir. As per the data compiled by the Reserve Bank of Indis (RBI), the sickness in Small Scale Industries (SSIs) in Gujarat for the last three years is given below:—

As at the end of	Number of Units
March, 1997	6510
March, 1998	6808
March, 1999	4170

(c) and (d) The Government is fully seized of the incidence of

industrial sickness amongst SSI units and has taken various measures to facilitate timely identification and rehabilitation of potentially viable sick industries, which *inter-alia*, includes institutional mechanism in the form of State Level Inter-Institutional Committee, special rehabilitation cells in banks and state financial institution and elaborate guidelines issued by RBI for extending rehabilitation assistance to the eligible units. The Government of Gujarat has constituted in August 1998, the Gujarat Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (GBIFR) for helping revival of sick SSI units having investments in plant and machinery above Rs. 5 lakhs.

Cottage industries on the verge of extinction

†885. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that many cottage industries and traditions to be thrived in rural areas of India are now on the verge of extinction;

(b) if so, whether Government have conducted any survey about such extinctable cottage industries and traditions;

(c) if so, the State-wise details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (d) The Government has launched a National programme for Rural Industrialisation under which 100 rural clusters are to be established every year. KVIC has identified 50 rural clusters, of which 11 clusters have already been extended with need-based support. The clusters idenfitied are located in the States of Rajasthan, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, West Bengal, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and the North-Eastern States of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Tripura and Manipur. The activities covered include soap,

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.